

REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 24, 2008, it was indicated that JP 2001-322680 cited in IDS submitted on May 17, 2005, and six references from the Japanese and Chinese search reports submitted on September 17, 2007 have not been considered. JP 2001-322680 was mistakenly cited in the IDS of May 17, 2005 instead of citing JP 2001-332680. Therefore, IDS including references mentioned by the Examiner and JP 2001-332680 has been submitted for consideration with fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

On page 2 of the Action, the specification was objected to because of the informalities on page 28, line 6. In this regard, the specification has been checked and amended to correct clerical errors throughout the specification in accordance with the Examiner's request.

On page 3 of the Action, it was indicated that Figs. 35(a), 36(a) and 38 should have been designated by a legend such as Prior Art. In this regard, Figs. 35(a), 36(a) and 38 have been canceled, and new replacement sheets including Figs. 35(a), 35(b), 36(a), 36(b), 37 and 38 have been filed.

On page 3 of the Action, claims 1-6 and 8 were objected to because of informalities as to antecedent basis issues and other clerical errors.

On page 4 of the Action, claims 1-6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

On page 7 of the Action, claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwafuchi et al. (US 2002/0096994) in view of Natori et al. (JP 2002-244576).

On page 16 of the Action, it was indicated that claims 4, 5, and 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph and to include all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with the suggestion made by the Examiner, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4. Claims 5 and 8 have been amended in independent form.

Furthermore, claims 1, 5-6 and 8 have been amended to obviate each of the objections and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph. Claims 2-4 have been canceled.

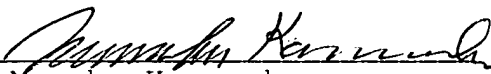
Therefore, all pending claims should stand allowable over the cited references, and the present application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$180.00 is attached herewith for filing IDS.

Respectfully Submitted,

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